

Message Text

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60

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 AGR-20 COME-00 TRSE-00 PM-07 L-03

NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01

USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 STR-08 DRC-01 AID-20 /135 W

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R 212047Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1837

UNCLAS CARACAS 9947

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF CUBAN SUGAR BY VENEZUELA

1. A TEAM OF VENEZUELAN AGRICULTURAL OFFICIALS HEADED BY NIDYA VILLEGAS, VICE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE DEPARTED NOVEMBER 19 FOR CUBA, REPORTEDLY TO INVESTIGATE TRADE POSSIBILITIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. IN ADDITION TO THE VICE MINISTER, THE TEAM CONSISTED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING CORPORATION, THE MANAGER OF THE SUGAR DISTRIBUTORS ASSOCIATION AND THE COUNSELOR OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. VILLEGAS ANNOUNCED THAT VENEZUELA IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN PURCHASING SUGAR FROM CUBA (NO QUANTITY GIVEN) AND POSSIBLY CUBAN CIGARS.

2. ACCORDING TO THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT, VENEZUELA IS INTERESTED IN PURCHASING SUGAR FROM CUBA TO ALLEVIATE THE EXISTING SHORT TERM SUGAR SHORTAGE.

3. THIS SHORTAGE WAS BROUGHT ABOUT IN PART BY EXCESSIVE CONSUMER PANIC PURCHASES WHEN IT WAS RUMORED THAT VENEZUELA WOULD BE UNABLE TO MEET LOCAL NEEDS, IN ADDITION TO A SHORT 1972-73 SUGAR CANE CROP. LARGE QUANTITIES OF SUGAR HAVE ALREADY BEEN PURCHASED (APPARENTLY FROM BRAZIL) TO MEET PRESENT NEEDS.

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4. HARVESTING AND REFINING OF THE 1974 SUGAR CANE CROP JUST

BEGAN. ALTHOUGH NOT AS LARGE AS ORIGINALLY HOPED, THE CROP
SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO MEET DOMESTIC REQUIREMENTS IN ADDITION
TO PROVIDING SUGAR FOR THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET.
MCCLINTOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Concepts: GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, SUGAR, IMPORTS, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, TRADE VISITS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, VE, CU
To: STATE
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Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005